



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



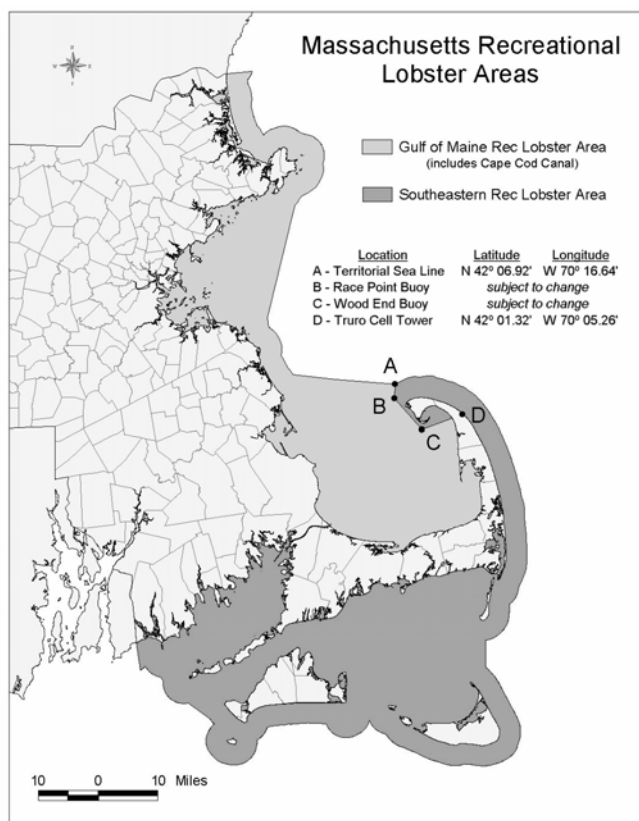
July 2, 2004

Marine Fisheries Advisory

NEW RECREATIONAL LOBSTER REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2004

Recreational lobster fishing (by pot and SCUBA divers) will be regulated under area-specific rules concerning the release of v-notched female lobster; minimum and maximum sizes; and trap escape vent minimum sizes. Also a state-wide 15 lobster daily bag limit was approved. Two management areas have been created: 1) Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area and 2) Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area that generally coincide with the commercial management area boundaries. Since the May public hearings, DMF has amended the Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area boundaries to include nearshore waters around Provincetown.

Regulations approved by area are listed in the table below. All regulations are effective July 2, 2004, except escape vent minimum size increases in the Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area, which will not go into effect until the 2005 season.



	<u>Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area</u>	<u>Southeastern Recreational Lobster Area</u>
Minimum Size	3 1/4"	3 3/8"
Maximum Size	5"	N/A
V-notching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero-tolerance definition: (V-shaped notch of any size with or without setal hairs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASMFC definition: (1/4"to 1/2" straight sided triangular cut without setal hairs)
Escape Vent	1 15/16" x 5 3/4" or two circular vents of 2 7/16"	2" x 5 3/4" or two circular vents of 2 1/2"
Bag Limit	15	15